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Message Text

SECRET

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47
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 069709
O 221800Z OCT 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6768

S E C R E T RABAT 5068

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OTRA
SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: ASST SECY ATHERTON'S VISIT

1. AS YO KNOW FROM RABAT 5045, KING IS SENDING AIR-
CRAFT TO CASABLANCA TO TAKE YOU AND PARTY TO MARRAKECH
IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL. THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY
OF YOUR AUDIENCE OCCURRING BEFORE WE HAVE HAD AN OPPOR-
TUNITY TO BRIEF YOU ON FAST-MOVING LOCAL SITUATION. FOR
THIS CONTINGENCY THE FOLLOWING BRIEF SUMMARY:

A. PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH ARE PROCEEDING AT SUCH SPEED
AND WITH SUCH MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT THAT THEY
CANNOT, IN MY OPINION, BE HALTED WITHOUT SERIOUS
LOGISTICAL AND ESPECIALLY POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES TO THE
KING. THIS ALSO OPINION OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR AND
FRENCH AND BRITISH CHARGES WHO WELL INFORMED. FACT THAT
MAJORITY OF MARCHERS WILL BE UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WHO
ALREADY MAINTAINING LOW STANDARD OF LIVING MAKES
LOGISTICS RELATIVELY EASY BUT EARLY RECALL MORE
DIFFICULT.

B. UNDER ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT
ANY UN OR OTHER PROPOSAL LEADING ONLY TO TRANSITORY
PEACE-KEEPING MEASURES WITHOUT TOUCHING SUBSTANCE GF
TERRITORIAL TRANSFER WOULD RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION.
KING WILL NOT BE OPEN TO PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS UNLESS
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HE IS GIVEN SOME IDEA AT WHAT SUBSTANTIVE ENDS THESE

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ARE AIMED.

C. US INFLUENCE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO THE EXTENT
THAT USG IS WILLING TO PUT SOME PRESSURE ON SPAIN (UNLESS
NEED FOR THIS OVERTAKEN BY RESULTS OF BILATERAL SPANISH-
MOROCCAN MEETINGS REPORTED IN RABAT 5054 AND RABAT 5046.)

D. NEVERTHELESS, ONE POSSIBLE TEMPORARY MEASURE, IF
SPEEDILY ADOPTED BY UN SECURITY COUNCIL COULD MAKE AN
IMMEDIATE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE, THAT IS IF SC, HOPEFULLY
WITH THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SPAIN AND MOROCCO,
AND AVOIDING ALL HORTATORY LANGUAGE, COULD AGREE TO
AND DISPATCH A MISSION IMMEDIATELY TO THE SAHARA TO ACCOMPANY
AND OBSERVE THD MARCH. THIS WOULD ADD DIGNITY TO BOTH
SIDES AND MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN LIMITING INCIDENTS WHICH
OTHERWISE UNSETTLING POSSIBILITY.

2. DEPT. PLEASE PASS SECY'S PARTY AND OTHER ADDRESSEES
AS DESIRED.
NEUMANN

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NNN

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